

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 01138 161952Z

21

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-02 OFA-01 COME-00 DLOS-04

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-10 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-02 OES-05 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 /144 W

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R 161830Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6942

UNCLAS NASSAU 1138

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, BF

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON RADIO ON SPINY LOBSTER
AND U.S. FACILITIES

REF: NASSAU 1136

1. REFTEL REPORTED NEWSPAPER REPORT NASSAU GUARDIAN OF PM
RADIO INTERVIEW COVERING VARIOUS TOPICS INCLUDING SPINY
LOBSTER AND U.S. FACILITIES.

2. IN ORDER TO GET FULLER AND MORE ACCURATE REPORT OF WHAT
PM SAID, EMBASSY SECRETARY TRANSCRIBED PM'S COMMENTS FROM
TAPE OF BROADCAST. THESE COMMENTS WHICH FOLLOW BELOW WERE
IN RESPONSE TO VARIOUS QUESTIONS FROM REPORTERS:

A. SPINY LOBSTER

"AS FAR AS BAHAMIANS ARE CONCERNED, THE LAW WOULD MAKE
THE SPINY CRAWFISH A CREATURE OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 NASSAU 01138 161952Z

AND THE PRINCIPAL EFFECT WOULD BE TO CONFINE THE

CATCHING OF THE SPINY CRAWFISH TO BAHAMIANS.

"THIS ALSO MEANS THAT A NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO HITHERTO HAVE BEEN FISHING IN THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THE BAHAMAS WOULD BE, BY LAW, EXCLUDED FROM DOING SO AND MAY SUFFER PENALTIES IF THEY CONTINUED TO DO SO. THE CONTINENTAL SHELF EXTENDS OUTWARD AND BEYOND THE INTERNATIONAL TWELVE MILE FISHING LIMIT. SOME BRIEF DISCUSSIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN HELD WITH THE AMERICANS, WHO ARE OUR CLOSEST NEIGHBORS IN THIS PARTICULAR REGARD, AND THEY HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED THAT WE WOULD WISH TO CONTINUE THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VIEW TO SEEING WHETHER THERE IS ANY BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE UNITED STATES AND THE BAHAMAS. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EASIER TO WORK ON AN AGREEMENT AFFECTING BAHAMIAN CITIZENS AND AMERICAN CITIZENS BUT FOR THE UNFORTUNATE FEATURE THAT THE STATE OF FLORIDA, WHICH HAS BEEN UNABLE TO LICENSE NON-AMERICANS TO FISH IN AMERICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS, HAS BEEN LICENSING NON-AMERICANS TO FISH OUTSIDE AMERICAN TERRITORIAL WATERS, NAMELY IN BAHAMIAN WATERS, THAT IS, THE CUBAN AMERICANS RESIDING IN FLORIDA. IN ADDITION, ANY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE BAHAMAS WOULD NEED TO FEATURE SOME RECIPROCAL RIGHTS FOR BAHAMIANS TO FISH IN AMERICAN WATERS. WE WOULD NEED TO SIT DOWN WITH THE AMERICANS AND DECIDE WHETHER THERE IS BASIS FOR SUCH AN AGREEMENT. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WILL TRY TO AVOID ANY UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATIONS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ONCE THE SEASON OPENS ON AUGUST 1. THE CAPABILITY TO ENFORCE THE NEW LAW OF AUGUST 1 IS LIMITED DIRECTLY TO THE FOUR POLICE PATROL BOATS AND INDIRECTLY TO WHAT ASSISTANCE OTHER BAHAMIAN FISHERMEN MIGHT GIVE BY REPORTING THE LOCATION OF NON-BAHAMIAN FISHING BOATS IN THE AREA.

"THE BENEFICIAL EFFECT OF THE NEW LAW ON THE CRAWFISHING INDUSTRY WILL NOT BE AS MUCH THE FIRST YEAR AS IN FUTURE YEARS WHEN THE TECHNIQUES AND CAPABILITIES OF THE BAHAMIAN FISHERMEN ARE EXPECTED TO IMPROVE AND THE EFFECT EACH YEAR WILL BE GREATER."

B. U.S. FACILITIES

"WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE QUESTION OF THE PRESENCE ON BAHAMIAN
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 NASSAU 01138 161952Z

SOIL OF U.S. AND BRITISH BASES. SINCE INDEPENDENCE, THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN TO EXTEND THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS ON A SIX MONTH BASIS. HOW THIS AGREEMENT CAN BE EXTENDED FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME DEPENDS ON THE SETTLEMENT OF WHAT IS BAHAMIAN TERRITORY, WHICH INVOLVES THE PRINCIPLE OF ARCHIPELAGO. THIS MEANS THAT ALL OF THE WATER WITHIN THE CIRCLE OF ALL OF THE ISLANDS OF THE BAHAMAS IS INTERNAL WATER. THIS PRINCIPLE WOULD ALSO APPLY TO THE AIR AS WELL AS THE SEA.

THERE IS A NEED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF THIS PRINCIPLE. ONCE THIS PRINCIPLE OF ARCHIPELAGO IS ACCEPTED BY GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES, THE OTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE BASES CAN BE DISCUSSED. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS PRINCIPLE WILL BE ACCEPTED BY GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE NEXT TWELVE MONTHS. THERE MAY BE DIFFICULTIES REACHING AGREEMENT ON OTHER AREAS, SUCH AS, THE RIGHT TO EXPLORE SEA RIGHTS, BUT I DO NOT EXPECT DISAGREEMENT ON THE PRINCIPLE OF ARCHIPELAGO."

(NOTE: PM EXPLICITLY AVOIDED RESPONDING TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION CONCERNING THE SIZE OF THE POSSIBLE QUID, THE REPORTER NOTING A SUM OF DOLS 24 MILLION OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS AS THE RUMORED AMOUNT.)

WEISS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHELLFISH, PRESS CONFERENCES, LOBSTERS, FISHING REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NASSAU01138
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750246-0649
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750751/aaaabtsf.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NASSAU 1136
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <22 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER'S COMMENTS ON RADIO ON SPINY LOBSTER AND U.S. FACILITIES
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, BF, US, (PINLNG, LYNDEN O)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006